



**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT
and NATURAL RESOURCES**

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**Report to the Board of Minerals & Environment
Issuance of Uncontested Permit**

BENTONITE PERFORMANCE MINERALS, LLC – Mine Permit 482

Pursuant to ARSD 74:29:01:19, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources is informing you that the following uncontested mining permit application has been conditionally approved:

Applicant: Bentonite Performance Minerals, LLC

Address: 554 US Hwy 212, Belle Fourche, South Dakota 57717

Phone: (307) 896-2596

Legal Description: Purple Project: SW1/4 NE1/4 & Portions of NW1/4 SE1/4 Section 23; T9N-R1E, Butte County

General Location: Approximately 6 miles northwest of Belle Fourche, South Dakota

Material to be Mined: Bentonite

Narrative Description: Bentonite Performance Minerals, LLLC will mine bentonite using conventional cut and fill mining procedures. About 15.80 acres will be mined and a total of 37.18 acres will be affected during the five-year life of the operation. Bentonite Performance Minerals, LLC plans to remove about 59,357 tons of bentonite during the mining operation. Mining is expected to start after permit approval and will be completed, including final reclamation, by September 30, 2019. Reclamation will occur as soon as possible after mining.

Affected Land Acreage: 37.18 acres

Surface Mining Disturbed Acreage: 15.80 acres

Post Mining Land Use: Rangeland for livestock grazing

Date of Issuance: May 28, 2014

A copy of the Department's Notice of Decision as required under ARSD 74:29:01:18 is enclosed.

Sincerely,

\S/

Steven M. Pirner
Secretary
Department of Environment & Natural Resources